

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Acquisition Program— Johnson Property SNC 1473-LC

Project Location – Specific: Approximately 3.25mi NE of Bassetts and 3.75mi S of Whitehawk, Sierra County. APNs 007-1000-010, 012-030-005,

Project Location - City: 3.25mi NE of Bassetts

Project Location - County: Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Sierra County Land Trust (SCLT) to acquire 168+/- acres of private property, including mineral rights. The property consists of vacant red fir complex forested site at 7300-7900ft surrounded by USFS lands in the Tahoe and Plumas national forests. The project goal is to ensure use of the property for public open space and recreation, while ensuring the protection and long-term management of this high-elevation upper watershed site with its forest, water, wildlife, recreation, and scenic resources. In particular, the project will help keep the Howard Creek Meadow landscape and watershed intact. The SCLT will complete a phase one environmental site assessment and develop a baseline conditions report and long-term management plan for the property.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra County Land Trust

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: Class 25 Section 15325 Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325 (Class 25) Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources which consists of the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. The intent of this acquisition is to ensure the protection and long-term management of this high-elevation upper watershed site in its natural state with its forest, water, wildlife, recreation, and scenic resources, while conserving the open space and recreation values. SNC has independently reviewed the project and determined that no exception under Section 15300.2 applies. The County of Sierra filed a Notice of Exemption for this project in September 2019.


Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes No

Signature:  Date: 12/12/2022 Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.